

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 844

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Michael McDonald upon being named an “Angel in Adoption.”

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Michael McDonald is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected and admired member of the Memphis community, Mr. McDonald was recently named an “Angel in Adoption” by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in recognition of his tireless efforts to provide quality and holistic services and support to adoptive children and their families in the Greater Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald serves with acumen and alacrity as the director of the Adoption Support Center, a division of Agape Child and Family Services, Inc., in which position he has earned the respect of his colleagues and clients alike due to the exemplary quality of his work, his compassionate and giving spirit, and his dedication to providing every child a stable, loving, and permanent family; and

WHEREAS, a bright ray of hope in the lives of children who are in state custody waiting to be adopted, Mr. McDonald helps them deal with the grief and loss of their birth families, prepares them for their new lives, and provides them with the best care and in-home therapy available after the young person is adopted; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald also lends his time and considerable talents to the adoptive parents, providing them with curriculum before the adoption, helping them obtain training and counseling throughout the adoption process, and helping them integrate the children into their new homes; and

WHEREAS, because of Mr. McDonald's unique approach and remarkable leadership abilities, the Adoption Support Center has a 98.9% success rate, and since the Center's establishment in 2004, the number of adopted youth served has risen to nearly 2,750 children; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this distinguished honor, Mr. McDonald journeyed to Washington, D.C., with 190 of his fellow "angels" to share his singular insights and expertise with the members of Congress on September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McDonald's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many years of service, Mr. McDonald has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the State of Tennessee, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Michael McDonald on being named an "Angel in Adoption," commend his exceptional service to the children and families of Tennessee, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.